

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 TAR-01

IO-10 CU-02 OES-03 AGR-05 INT-05 /123 R

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APPROVED BY E :RPOATS

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

NEA/BLC:MDRAPER

NEA:HHSAUNDERS

EB/CSB/OSB:RBUCK

L/NEA:JROHWER

COMMERCE:CCLEMMET

TREASURY:LATLAS

AID:RNOOTER S/S-MR ORTIZ

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R 211731Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND MR. RUTHERFORD POATS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: TUNIS 4806

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DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S USEFUL CABLE. IN GENERAL
TERMS IT SEEMS THE TUNISIANS AND WE ARE THINKING ALONG
SIMILAR LINES. WE WISH TO MAKE SEVERAL COMMENTS, HOWEVER,
CONCERNING THE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND TO ALERT

EMBASSY TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO BE RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 18-20.

A. TIMING. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OVER THE DATES OF THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER PREPARATORY CONFERENCE(PREPCON) MEETINGS WHICH ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS SOMETIME IN THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS MIGHT HAVE TO BE POSTPONED SEVERAL DAYS. THE PARIS MEETINGS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON OCTOBER 6, BUT NOW SEEM LIKELY TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 10. IF SO, UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, THE SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PREPCON, WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND EVEN THE CLOSING PLENARY ON OCTOBER 13. HE COULD, HOWEVER, CO-CHAIR THE PLENARY ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 20. HE IS ALREADY COMMITTED FOR THE REMAINDER OF OCTOBER AND WELL INTO NOVEMBER, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES WHICH WE COULD CONSIDER. IN VIEW OF THIS, OCTOBER 18-20 SEEM THE MOST SUITABLE DATES FOR RESCHEDULING THE MEETINGS. WE WOULD PREFER TO START ON OCTOBER 18 AND GO STRAIGHT THROUGH IF POSSIBLE, BUT COULD CONSIDER HOLDING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 17 AND 18, LEAVING SUNDAY FREE IF THERE WERE NO LIKELIHOOD OF HOLDING MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS THAT DAY. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO RAISE PROBLEM WITH GOT AND TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR POSSIBLE NECESSITY TO RESCHEDULE MEETING. PLEASE LET US KNOW EMBASSY'S AND GOT'S VIEWS BY AUGUST 25.

B. FORMAT. WE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF JOINT COMMISSION LASTING OVER A PERIOD OF THREE WORKING DAYS, WITH FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO MEETINGS OF THE TWO SUBCOMMISSIONS, SECOND DAY LEFT FREE FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS AND WORK ON COMMUNIQUE AND MINUTES, AND THIRD DAY USED FOR FINAL PLENARY MEETING IN MORNING, CONCLUDING WITH SIGNING OF COMMUNIQUE IN LATE MORNING OR EARLY AFTERNOON. IF TUNISIANS FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, WE CAN AGREE TO BRIEF OPENING PLENARY SESSION ON MORNING OF FIRST DAY, FOLLOWED BY SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IN LATE MORNING AND AFTERNOON. BECAUSE OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S OTHER COMMITMENTS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, OPENING PLENARY WOULD HAVE TO BE CO-CHAIRLED FOR US SIDE BY AMBASSADOR SEELYE. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT SECOND DAY OF MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD OPEN FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH TUNISIAN COUNTERPARTS AND FOR WORK ON MINUTES AND COMMUNIQUE. DRAFTS OF LATTER TWO WILL BE PREPARED BEFORE MEETINGS, BUT TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO PUT THEM IN FINAL FORM BEFORE CLOSING PLENARY ON MORNING OF THIRD WORKING DAY. MINUTES COULD BE INITIALED IN AFTERNOON OF LAST DAY AFTER ANY NECESSARY REVISIONS ARE MADE.

C. AGENDA. WE AGREE ON NEED TO EXCHANGE AGENDA PROPOSALS

AND ESTABLISH FIRM DETAILED AGENDA BEFORE MEETINGS BEGIN. A WORKING DRAFT OF AGENDA HAS BEEN PROVIDED EMBASSY SEPARATELY, AND US PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING REQUESTED TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT BY AUGUST 25. ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY CABLE PRIOR TO THAT DATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WHEN AVAILABLE, AS TO OTHER ISSUES WHICH TUNISIANS WISH TO RAISE, AND WHO WILL BE THEIR SPEAKERS. PER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTTEL, WE CAN SEE NO REASONS TO EXPECT DIFFICULTIES OVER AGENDA. AS SOON AS AGREEMENT IS OBTAINED HERE ON GENERAL FORMAT FOR US AGENDA PROPOSALS, EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED AND REQUESTED TO PRESENT REVISED US DRAFT TO GOT FOR COMMENT.

D. AD HOC MEETINGS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT TUNISIA'S PLANS RE AD HOC MEETINGS. OBVIOUSLY SOME EXTRA-COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE, BUT WE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THESE AS UNSTRUCTURED AND INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE. ANY ISSUES ON WHICH AGREEMENT OR COMMITMENTS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS MIGHT BE MADE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN EITHER PLENARY OR SUBCOMMISSION FORA.

E. EXCHANGE OF PAPERS. TUNISIAN SUGGESTION ON BACKGROUND PAPERS THEY WISH TO EXCHANGE PRIOR TO MEETINGS ARE ACCEPTABLE. A PAPER ON API MIGHT BE HELPFUL ALSO. SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE REVISION, WE PLAN TO PREPARE PAPERS ON FOLLOWING TOPICS. EMBASSY COMMENTS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

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-1) US-TUNISIAN TRADE - NOW AND IN PROSPECT
-2) DIRECT US INVESTMENT PROSPECTS IN TUNISIA
-3) TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT PROSPECTS IN TUNISIA
-4) US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND POLICY
-5) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PROGRAMS AND POLICY
-6) EXIM PROGRAMS AND POLICY
-7) OPIC PROGRAMS AND POLICY
-8) OTHER USG FINANCING PROGRAMS
-9) IMPLICATIONS OF 1974 TRADE ACT AND GSP ELIGIBILITY
-10) SURPLUS FOREIGN CURRENCY PROGRAMS AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
-11) US-TUNISIAN CULTURAL COOPERATION

F. BRIEFING PAPERS. EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROVIDED SEPARATELY TENTATIVE LIST OF BRIEFING PAPERS TO BE DRAWN UP FOR MEETINGS. ANY COMMENT YOU MIGHT HAVE AS TO ADDITIONAL AREAS WHICH SHOULD BE COVERED WOULD BE HELPFUL. DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN TOUCH LATER CONCERNING FORMAT AND DEADLINE FOR PAPERS EMBASSY IS BEING REQUESTED TO PREPARE FOR BRIEFING BOOK, WHICH WILL BE MADE UP AT DEPARTMENT. US STATEMENTS TO BE MADE DURING MEETINGS, AS WELL AS DRAFTS

OF COMMUNIQUE AND OF MINUTES, WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN BRIEFING BOOK. COPIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IN ADVANCE. ASSUME THAT EMBASSY WILL ALSO BE ASSEMBLING BRIEFING MATERIAL OF LOCAL NATURE, AND THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO US PARTICIPANTS UPON ARRIVAL IN TUNIS.

G. PARTICIPANTS. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S DIFFICULTIES DUE VACATION SEASON IN OBTAINING NAMES OF TUNISIAN PARTICIPANTS IN MEETINGS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ROBERT NOOTER AND CHARLES HOSTLER HAVE BOTH AGREED TO SERVE AS SUBCOMMISSION CO-CHAIRMEN. EMBASSY WILL BE ADVISED NAMES OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS AS CONFIRMATIONS ARE RECEIVED.

H. CIRCULAR 175 CLEARANCES. CIRCULAR 175 CLEARANCES (11 FAM 700) WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY NEW COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE JOINT COMMISSION. AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE ONLY SUCH COMMITMENTS WHICH WE CAN FORESEE ARE UNDERSTANDING ON US OWNED DINAR BALANCES AND SFCP MODEL AGREEMENT. THESE CAN BE CLEARED BEFORE DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR TUNIS AND PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NO PROBLEM. TREASURY CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY JOINT TAX TREATY WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE AT TIME OF MEETING. PLEASE ADVISE IF EMBASSY IS AWARE OF ANY OTHER AGREEMENTS OR UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH TUNISIANS MIGHT PROPOSE FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA. IF TUNISIANS DO HAVE ANY SUCH INTENTIONS, THEY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT CLEARANCE PROCESS IS COMPLICATED AND TIME-CONSUMING, AND WE WOULD MUCH PREFER ANY POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED WELL BEFORE THE MEETING. FOR THIS SAME REASON, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE BASIC AGREEMENT ON COMMUNIQUE PRIOR TO MEETINGS.

FYI. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE EVENTUAL CHANGES IN DRAFT COMMUNIQUE OR INTRODUCTION OF NEW ITEMS AT TIME OF MEETING PROVIDED THESE ARE VERY FEW IN NUMBER. MAW

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